

Application No. 10/661,833
Paper Dated April 15, 2005
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of December 15, 2004
Attorney Docket No. 0388-031780

REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 15, 2004 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered.

Objections to the Disclosure

As suggested by Examiner, Applicants have adopted Examiner's suggested title and have accordingly amended the title.

Objections to the Specification and Drawings

The above-identified paragraphs in the "Amendments to the Specification" section have been amended to correct minor editorial issues. In addition, Figs. 2-4 have been amended to address Examiner's objections to the same. Applicants assert that no new matter has been added.

Objections to the Claims

Claim 1 and claim 8 were objected to in the Office Action. Applicants have herein amended claims 1 and 8 to correct these matters. In addition, claims 11 and 12 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors. New claims 13-19 have been added.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1-6 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for anticipation by Japanese Utility Model Application No. JP-A-4-122238U ("JP '238U").

JP '238U is directed to a headlight assembly of a tractor. The lens unit (4) is supported through engagement between a projection of the lens unit (4a) and an engaging projection (5a) of the reflector (5). See JP '238U translation ¶ [0006]. The reflector (5) is in turn supported by a mounting frame (9). See JP '238U translation ¶ [0007].

In contrast, independent claim 1 of the present invention requires that the lens unit be directly connected and supported to the frame. JP '238U does not teach or suggest this limitation. Further, the JP '238U arrangement requires a rigid and strong reflector to support the lens unit, resulting in possible unnecessary added weight and/or higher cost for the reflector. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection and submit that claim

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1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 2-6 and 10 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants also respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-6 and 10 and submit that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over JP ‘238U in view of ordinary skill in the art. A statement that modifications of the prior art meet the claimed invention without a finding as to the principle or specific understanding within the knowledge of a skilled artisan that would have motivated that person to make the claimed invention is improper. See MPEP §2143.01. Further, in the *In re Dailey* case, the Examiner used teachings from the prior art to make the rejection. See *In re Dailey*, 149 USPQ 47, 49 (CCPA 1976); MPEP §2143.03. Applicants therefore traverse the assertion that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to make the claimed inventions of claims 7 and 8. See MPEP §2144.03. More importantly, claims 7 and 8 depend indirectly from independent claim 1. As discussed above, JP ‘238U does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Thus, as claim 1 is in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully submit claims 7 and 8 are also in condition for allowance and request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over JP ‘238U in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,293,686 to Hayami et al. Claims 9-12 depend indirectly from independent claim 1. Thus, as claim 1 is in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully submit claims 9-12 are also in condition for allowance and request withdrawal of this rejection.

Petition for a one-month Extension of Time is submitted herewith.

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CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that claims 1-12 and new claims 13-19 are patentable over the cited prior art and in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request passage of the present application to allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-0650.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 2, Fig. 3 and Fig. 4. The attached sheets, which include Figs. 2-4, replace the original sheets including Figs. 2-4. In Fig. 2, an element 18b has been amended to element 18a. In Fig. 2, Fig. 3 and Fig. 4, an element 18b has been amended to element 18c.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes



FIG.2

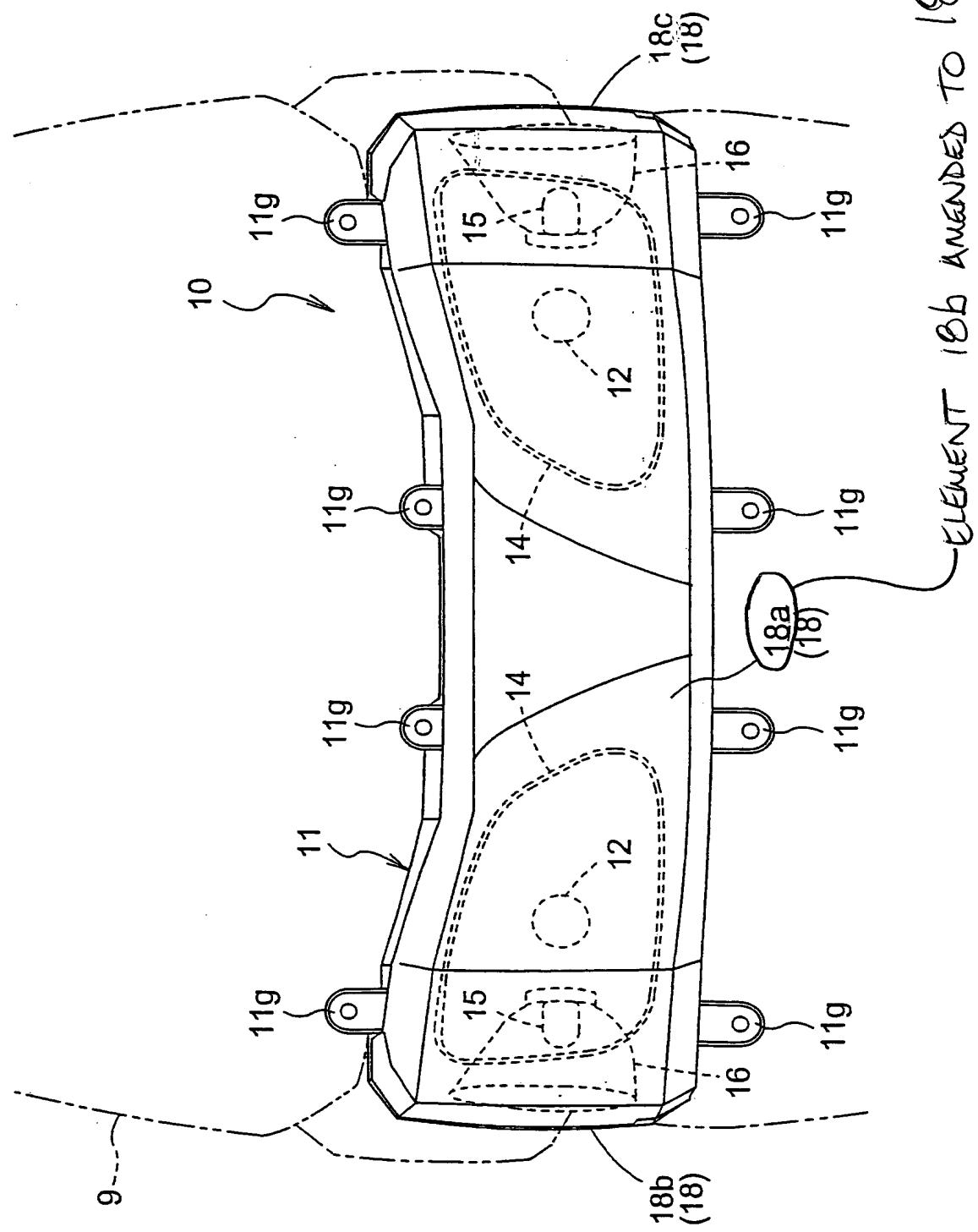
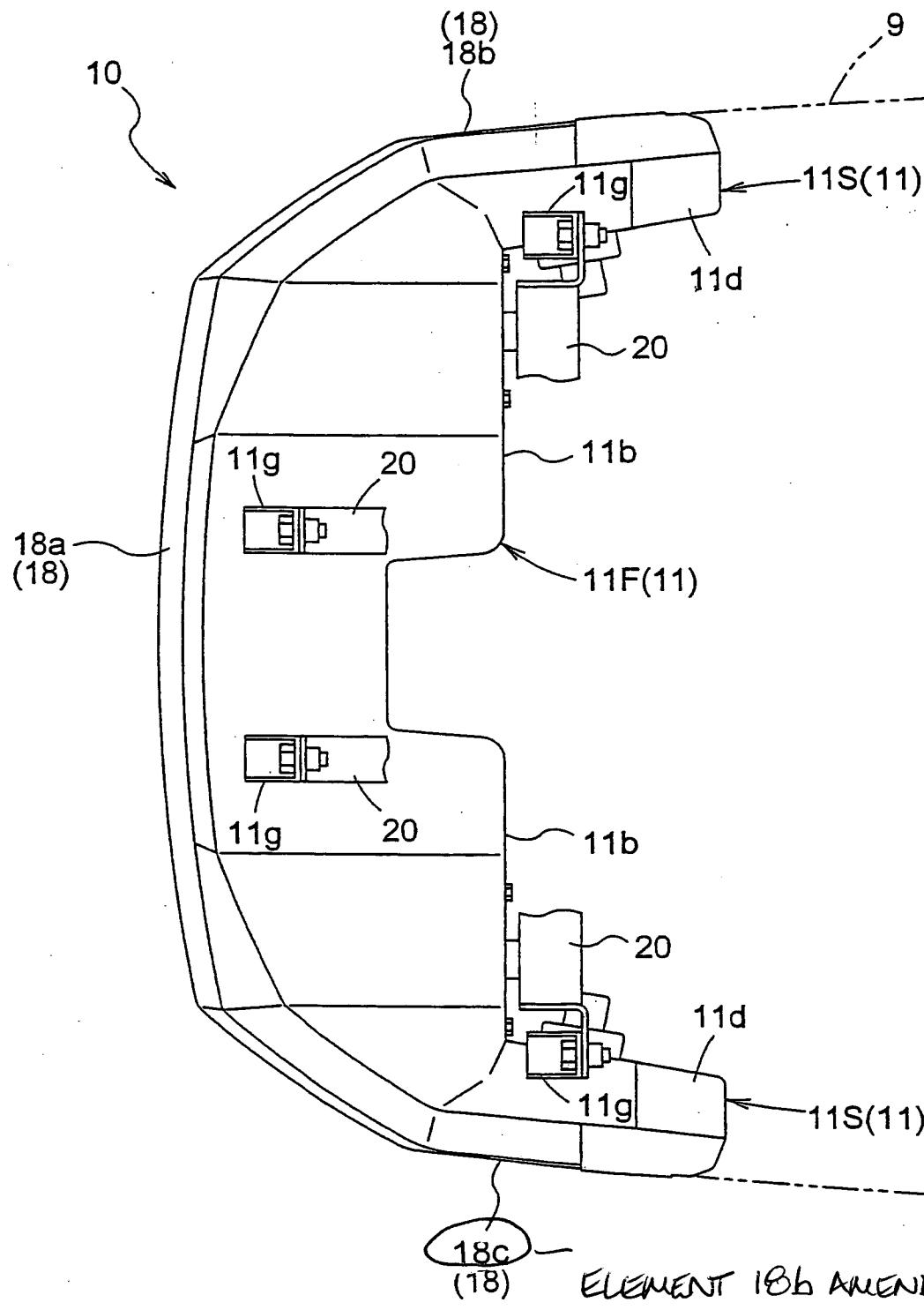


FIG.3



ELEMENT 18b AMENDED TO
18c

FIG.4

